

I. Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A medical instrument comprising:

a housing member having a passage through which a catheter including an outer profile is received;

a cap having a recess formed therein and in fluid communication with the passage, the recess being defined by recess dimensions; and

a valve body to be received in the recess and mounted to the housing member in the passage [of the housing], the valve body having [a two] first and second [opposing planar] faces and a peripheral edge separating the faces, the peripheral edge being non-circular when the valve body is unstressed, the valve body further having a first slit formed on [that opens in] one of the [planar] faces and a second slit formed on [that opens in] the other [planar] face, each slit [extending] formed [partly] through a portion of the valve body and intersecting with the other slit within the valve body,

the valve body conforming to the outer [wall] profile of the catheter when the catheter [penetrates] is disposed through [the intersection of] the first and second slits to maintain a fluid tight seal between the valve body and the catheter,

the valve body having a [first planar] height dimension across the center of the valve body [the first or second planar faces through the center of the valve body] and a [second planar] width dimension across the center of the valve body [first or second planar faces through the center of the valve body], the width dimension being [that is] less than the [first planar] height dimension when the valve body is unstressed [before being mounted in the passage], the height and width dimensions being unequal to the recess dimensions, [the first planar dimension] defining a plane parallel to the first and second faces and [being generally]

perpendicular to [one of] the slits, the valve body configured to be compressed along the height dimension when the valve body is received by the recess, [having] defining a generally circular shape [when mounted in the passage of the housing].

2. (Original) The instrument of claim 1 wherein the first and second slits are oriented at an angle with respect to each other.

3. (Original) The instrument of claim 1 wherein the first and second slits are perpendicular to each other.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) [The instrument of claim 1 wherein the housing has a recess with a dimension across the recess that is less than the first planar dimension of the valve body.]

A medical instrument comprising:

a housing member having a passage through which a catheter including an outer profile is received;

a cap having a recess formed therein and in fluid communication with the passage, the recess having a first height dimension across the recess; and

a valve body to be received in the recess and mounted to the housing member in the passage, the valve body having first and second faces and a peripheral edge separating the faces, the peripheral edge being non-circular when the valve body is unstressed, the valve body further having a first slit formed on one

of the faces and a second slit formed on the other face, each slit formed through a portion of the valve body and intersecting with the other slit within the valve body,

the valve body conforming to the outer profile of the catheter when the catheter is disposed through the first and second slits to maintain a fluid tight seal between the valve body and the catheter,

the valve body having a second height dimension across the center of the valve body and a width dimension across the center of the valve body, the width dimension being less than the second height dimension when the valve body is unstressed, the second height dimension and the width dimension defining a plane parallel to the first and second faces and perpendicular to the slits, the second height dimension being greater than the first height dimension, the valve body configured to be compressed along the second height dimension when the valve body is received by the recess, producing a closing force on the slit after removal of a catheter to prevent leakage, defining a generally circular shape.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The instrument of claim 5 wherein the recess is a circular recess with a circular cross section.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim [8] 7 wherein the peripheral edge has an oval shape when the valve body is unstressed before being received in the recess.

10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim [10] 5 wherein the first and second slits [planes] are oriented at an angle with respect to each other.
12. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim [10] 5 wherein the first and second slits [planes] are perpendicular to each other.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim [14] 1 wherein the recess is a circular recess with a circular cross section.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim [17 when] 16 wherein the peripheral edge has an oval shape when the valve body is unstressed before being received in the recess.
19. (Currently amended) A medical instrument comprising:

a housing member having a passage through which a catheter including an outer profile is received;

a cap having a recess formed therein and in fluid communication with the passage, the recess being defined by recess dimensions; and

a valve body to be received in the recess and mounted to the housing member in the passage [of the housing], the valve body having [a] first [planar face, a] and second [planar] faces[.] and a peripheral edge separating the faces, the peripheral edge being non-circular when the valve body is unstressed, the valve body further having a slit defining a slit plane extending from the first [planar] face and partly through the valve body and an opening extending from the second [planar] face and partly through the valve body, the slit plane and the opening intersecting within the valve body, the opening provided with an internal ring positioned within the valve body between the second [planar] face and the intersection between the slit plane and the opening,

the valve body conforming to the outer [wall] profile of the catheter when the catheter [penetrates] is disposed through the slit plane and the internal ring to maintain a fluid tight seal between the valve body and the catheter,

the valve body having a [first planar] height dimension [through] across the center of the valve body and a [second planar] width dimension [through] across the center of the valve body [that is], the width dimension being less than the [first planar] height dimension when the valve body is unstressed [before being mounted in the passage], the height and width dimensions being unequal to the recess dimensions, [first planar dimension] defining a plane parallel to the first and second faces and [being generally] perpendicular to the slit, the valve body configured to be compressed along the height dimension when the valve body is received by the

recess, [having] defining a generally circular shape [when mounted in the passage of the housing].

20. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim 19 wherein the housing has a recess with a height dimension [across the recess] that is less than the [first] height dimension of the valve body.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The instrument of claim 20 wherein the recess is a circular recess with a circular cross section.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) The instrument of claim 19 wherein the valve body includes an external raised ring on the second planar surface, the external raised ring surrounding the opening.

26. (Cancelled)